

Senator Talmadge suffered the tragic death of one of his sons, and endured other personal and professional misfortunes.

Nevertheless, in his memoirs (*Talmadge, A Political Legacy, A Politician's Life: A Memoir*), he wrote:

In looking back over my life, I suppose I have the normal share of regrets. But if I had it all to do over again, I wouldn't hesitate to enter politics. The rewards far outweigh the price one has to pay. When I speak to a civic club or just walk down the street, I invariably run into someone who has benefited in some way from my three-and-a-half decades in public life. Yes, it was a good life.

Mr. President, Herman Eugene Talmadge served his country and he served it well, in war and in peace. He served his State and the people of America very well with his extraordinary career in the Senate. His was indeed a "good life" and one for which all of us can be grateful. So:

Let Fate do her worst, there are relics of joy,  
Bright dreams of the past, that she cannot  
destroy;

Which come, in the night-time of sorrow and  
care,

And bring back the features that joy used to  
wear.

Long, long be my heart with such memories  
filled!

Like the vase in which roses have once been  
distilled,

You may break, you may shatter the vase, if  
you will,

But the scent of the roses will hang round it  
still.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, at the request of the majority leader, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess awaiting the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:50 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 3:34 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. JOHNSON).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 565

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I am about to propound a unanimous consent request on behalf of the Democratic leader. This consent request has been cleared on the Republican side as well as the Democratic side. Let me read it, if I may.

I ask unanimous consent that the majority leader, in concurrence with

the Republican leader, may resume the consideration of S. 565, the election reform bill; that debate on the bill be limited to 2 hours equally divided in the usual form; that the following be the only remaining first-degree amendments in order, and that debate on each amendment be limited to 30 minutes equally divided in the usual form unless otherwise listed; further, that no second-degree amendment be in order prior to a vote in relation to each amendment; further, that second-degree amendments must be relevant to the amendment to which it is offered and debate be limited to 30 minutes unless otherwise listed; further, that any pending amendment not listed be withdrawn; that upon disposition of the listed amendments, the bill be read the third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill; and that upon passage, the title amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without further intervening action or debate; further, that no call for the regular order be in order with respect to this bill:

Senator LEVIN, provisional balloting; Senator CLINTON, residual ballot benchmark; Senator ROCKEFELLER, overseas voters; Senator WYDEN, voting by mail and first time voter; Senator NELSON of Florida, DOJ request; Senator NICKLES, confidentiality voter lists; Senator ROBERTS, provisional balloting notices; Senator HATCH, Internet study; Senator THOMAS, sense of Senate on rural concerns; Senator GRASSLEY, use of Social Security numbers; Senator SMITH of New Hampshire, election media reporting; and Senator DODD and Senator MCCONNELL, managers' amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, let me express my very sincere gratitude to both leaders, first of all to Senator DASCHLE and his very fine staff who were immensely helpful in pulling this together. I thank the Republican leader, Senator LOTT, for his wonderful leadership. He has been tremendously helpful to us in putting this agreement together. I also thank Senator MCCONNELL and Senator BOND and their staffs for making it possible. Senator LOTT's office worked very closely with their offices in bringing us to this point.

We have had an awful lot of amendments. This bill had already handled some 35 or 40 amendments. We then had to lay the bill aside, and there was still an outstanding list of 40 or 45 amendments. This is a much more abbreviated list, and it will allow us to get to final passage on this bill.

I am very optimistic we will end up with a positive vote in the Senate on this very important issue of election reform. It has been a little more than a year since the election of 2000. As we have said, this bill is forward looking. It is not about what happened in 2000; rather, what had been happening for many years in regard to the deteriorating condition of our election struc-

ture in the country. Florida merely highlighted for many Americans what had happened in many of the States as well.

This bill, while not a complete answer, will put us on a very strong road to resolving a lot of the outstanding issues that occurred then.

I am very grateful to the staffs of all those Senators involved—Senators SCHUMER and TORRICELLI. I thank my own staff, Veronica Gillespie and Kennie Gill of the Rules Committee, as well as Shawn Maher of my office, who have worked very hard. We are not done yet. We have work to do on this unanimous consent agreement to deal with the remaining amendments and then a conference with the House.

But this unanimous consent agreement, which took the cooperation of all Members of this Chamber, brings us very close to final passage of a good bill, my firm hope is, so that resources in the discretionary funds of this bill might even be available for the 2002 election, if we can get this done sometime over the next several months; that is, the final conference report.

The purpose of this bill, as has been stated by many, is to make it harder to defraud the system but, just as importantly, to make it easier for people to cast their ballots: the provisional voting provisions, statewide voter registration, making sure people who are disabled will have access to voting, being able to check your vote, not overvoting, as well as the antifraud provisions and the provisions dealing with the establishment of a permanent commission on elections.

All Members in this Chamber have been extremely cooperative on seeing to both of those twin goals: easier to vote and harder to defraud the system. Without the cooperation of everyone in this Chamber, we would not have arrived at this unanimous consent agreement.

So it is a great compliment to Members from all across the country that we have been able to arrive at this unanimous consent agreement, the disposition of these amendments, and final passage of the bill that will make it possible for us to say we have made it easier to vote in America and harder to defraud the system. If that is achieved in the final product we produce, we will have responded to the challenge posed to us by what occurred not only in the 2000 national election but what had been occurring across the country for many years. I express my gratitude again to all involved.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.